Food Deserts in rural Nova Scotia

Findings

The walking-time polygons were generated using ArcGIS Pro Network Analysis tool, calculating the radius of service polygons centered on the input grocery store locations to produce intervals of 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 60 and 90 minutes. Polygons are color-coded and a map's legend is provided in the insert below the map. The map was created to show access to food for rural communities in Nova Scotia using the methodology outlined above.

Methodology

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Network Analysis Issues

DISCLAIMER: This map requires further research to be complete and accurate. It is in preliminary form. The "no-congestion" network used to produce the Network Analysis tool has generated unacceptable polygons due to network unavailability. This tool has not been validated for research purposes but is provided for preliminary research. No confidence can be placed in the results of this map. The network issues are due to the tools inability to fully represent terrain and road networks. This tool requires further research before it can be deemed a complete and accurate representation of rural access to food.

Poverty and Food Deserts

Census data from 2021, Nova Scotia data, shows a reduction in low-income urban areas and food deserts. The same consideration, over time, for low-income urban residents. The map shows access to full-service chain grocery stores, varying results. It is clear that some results vary, some results are complete, and some results are incomplete. The majority of these information are very dependent on population data of people. At least, these preliminary findings are intended to understand at least in simple form, complex issues.

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